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ABSTRACT

This book examines conceivable links between young male criminality and physical, emotional, or sexual abuse; lack of mentoring by older males; the inculcation of shame by adults; child poverty and neglect; social and political disenfranchisement; inappropriate, inadequate, and ineffectual education; spiritual impoverishment; father absence; lack of economic opportunity; combat sports; corporal punishment; rigid gender roles; anti-boy bias; the media; easy access to guns and alcohol; substance abuse and the criminalization of drugs; class disparities and racism; and other largely preventable and treatable influences in boys' formative years. A number of personal stories from the author's violent and incarcerated adolescence are presented throughout. Reports from other men who were swallowed by the dark maw of sociopathy in their youth, yet returned to make valuable contributions to their communities, are also included. These accounts are followed with observations about the particular elements that helped these males become productive adults instead of career criminals. The effective programs and innovative approaches outlined in this book are largely drawn from dedicated people working on the challenging front lines of troubled boys' lives. There are detailed suggestions about how adults can create more helpful environments for trouble young men today. Over 500 studies in sociology, psychology, criminal justice, psychiatry, education, and other fields underscore the anecdotal reports. A list of notes by chapter, a list of pertinent internet addresses, information about the author, and an index are provided. (MKA)

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